

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for indicating that claim 4 contains allowable subject matter and would be allowed if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Reconsideration of the pending application is respectfully requested on the basis of the following particulars:

1. Amendments and Support for Same

By the Response, claim 1 has been amended to further include all of the features of allowable claim 4 without adding new matter. Claims 4 and 7-10 have been cancelled. Accordingly, claims 1-3 and 5-6 are respectfully submitted for consideration. Approval and entry of the amendments are respectfully requested.

2. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and §103(a)

With respect to the rejection of claims 1 and 5-6 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Brox (US 6,700,426), to the rejection of claims 7-8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tanaka (US 7,091,767), to the rejection of claims 9-10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tokai (US 6,696,858), to the rejection of claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Brox in view of Tanaka, and to the rejection of claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Brox and Tokai, the rejections have been rendered moot by the amendment to claim 1 to include all allowable features of claim 4 and by the cancellation of claims 7-10.

3. Conclusion

In view of the amendments to the claims, and in further view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is requested that claims 1-3 and 5-6 be allowed and the application be passed to issue.

If any issues remain that may be resolved by a telephone or facsimile communication with the Applicant's representative, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the numbers shown.

Further, while no fees are believed to be due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-4525.

Respectfully submitted,

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